

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 35225 021948Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035937 022003Z /47
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2545

S E C R E T PARIS 35225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDIP, US, VN
SUBJECT: US-VIETNAM RELEATIONS: THIRD ROUND OF TALKS

1. SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH TELEPHONED EMBOFF
AT 1815 DECEMBER 2 TO SAY THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED AN
URGENT MESSAGE FROM HANOI CONCERNING THE THIRD ROUND OF
TALKS, AND HE WISHED TO INFORM US AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.
FOR TECHNICAL REASONS PHAN HIEN CANNOT ARRIVE IN PARIS
BY DECEMBER 7 AS SCHEDULED. HE ANTICIPATES A DELAY OF
ABOUT A WEEK AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US LATER TO
CONVEY A NEW DATE.

2. DO THANH SAID THAT PHAN HIEN WAS APPARENTLY
UNABLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME JUST WHEN HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
PROPOSE A NEW DATE BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN HE WILL
BE FREE FROM A TASK WHICH HAD SUDDENLY BEEN LEVIED ON
HIM. DO THANH EMPHASIZED THAT EMBOFF SHOULD UNDERLINE
TO WASHINGTON THAT THE REASONS WERE TECHNICAL; HE SAID HE
WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY THE "TECHNICAL" REASONS BUT
IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE NOT "POLITICAL". DO THANH CLEARLY
WISHED TO CONVEY VIETNAMESE AWARENESS OF THE INCONVEN-
IENCE THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD CAUSE THE US.

3. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE PHAN
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HIEN'S MESSAGE TOMORROW EITHER TO ACCEPT HIS RATHER
INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OR TO PROPOSE A FURTHER EXCHANGE
TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LATER DATE. WE ALSO
BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH THE VIETNAMESE
AT THAT TIME HOW THEY AND WE SHOULD HANDLE THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT TO THE PRESS OF THE POSTPONEMENT. (WE GATHER
THAT HANOI HAS NEVER ANNOUNCED THE TALKS.) WE MAY WISH

TO NOTE THAT WE SHALL MERELY SAY THAT THE VIETNAMESE
SIDE CITED "TECHNICAL REASONS", AND LET THE SRV ANSWER
QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS.
HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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